

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00501 171245Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 INR-10 INRE-00 SSO-00  
/047 W

-----067194 171249Z /53

O P 170920Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7643  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

UNCLAS LUSAKA 0501

FOR IOP/M

FOR IBS/PA, FOR IPS/PA  
STATE FOR AF/E AND AF/S

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: -  
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

FOLLOWING THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT'S REJECTION OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT ANNOUNCED IN SALISBURY THIS WEEK, THE STATE-OWNED ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL NEWSPAPER WARNED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT NOT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE SALISBURTY AGREEMENT. IN AN EDITORIAL PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 17, THE NEWSPAPER, WHICH USUALLY REFLECTS GOVERNMENT THINKING, CHARGED THAT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ANNOUNCED IN SALISBURY HAD WHAT IT CALLED "SERIOUS FLAWS."

THE MAIL SAID THE AGREEMENT CONTAINED SEEDS FOR A CIVIL WAR IN THE BREAKAWAY BRITISH COLONY. "THE BRITISH WOULD DO WELL TO KEEP CLEAR OF THIS AGREEMENT WHICH HAS INHERENT IN IT SEEDS OF CIVIL WAR AND WHICH CIVIL WAR WILL NEVER BE WON BY SMITH AND HIS BLACK MEN IN SALISBURY." THE EDITORIAL  
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ADDED "THE FLAW IN THE AGREEMENT LIES IN THE FACT THAT IT WAS THE RESULT OF THE GANGING TOGETHER OF FOUR FRIGHTENED MEN WHO HAVE BEEN HURRIEDLY BROUGHT TOGETHER TO AGREE ON HOW BEST TO SAFEGUARD THEIR OWN PERSONAL POLITICAL INTERESTS IN THE FACE OF AN ADVANCE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT."

THE EDITORIAL NOTED THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAD REJECTED THE

INTERNAL AGREEMENT AND SAID "ZAMBIA, THEREFORE, HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO BACK THE STAND OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ON THE ISSUE OF INTERNAL SETTLEMENT .... AND SHOULD THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IN FUTURE CHANGE ITS POLICY ON THE MATTER, WE SHALL DUTIFULLY SUPPORT WHATEVER STAND THE FRONT WILL CHOOSE TO TAKE."

THE MAIL ACCUSED SMITH OF "USING BLACK OPPORTUNISTS TO HAMMER OUT AN AGREEMENT WHICH HOODWINKS THE WORLD INTO BELIEVING THAT BLACKS ARE ON THE THRESHOLD OF MAJORITY RULE .... THE LIBERATION OF ZIMBABWE IS PRIMARILY THE TASK OF THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE. AND TH PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE HAVE APPOINTED THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO PROSECUTE THE WAR ON THEIR BEHALF."

THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED THAT "THE AGREEMENT ... IS JUST NOT WORTH THE PAPER IT IS WRITTEN ON." ITEM USIS LUSAKA. O'BRIEN

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## Message Attributes

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Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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